l262.[Transferrred to the 9th March 1989]

Setting up of Labour Appellate Tribunals

1263.SHR1 V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T.R. BALU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Labour Appellate Tribunals to hear appeals arising of award of Labour Courts/Industrial Tribunals in view of long pendency in High Courts and subsequent delay; and

(b) if not, what other steps are being proposed to dispose of long pending appeals in High Courts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Trade Unions and the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1988 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th May, 1988 provides *inter alia* for the transfer of such appeals to the Industrial Relations commissions proposed to be *set* up under Ariticle 323 B of the Constitution. These Commissions are proposed to be entrusted with the function of adjudication of Industrial disputes (other than those assigned to Labour Courts) and hearing of appeals against the orders of the Labour Courts. The Bill is before the Parliament.

Change in Famine Code

1264. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to change the age old Famine Code in order to face the new situations; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Government of India have circulated guidelines to the State Governments for preparation/ updating relief manuals for dealing with the natural calamities.

Cotton Production

1265. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the cotton production during the last two years and estimated production this year;

(b) whether it is a fact that international prices of cotton is higher and if so, what are the reasons for not exporting a part of the cotton produce in response to the demands of farmers;

(c) what is the domestic requirement of cotton; and

(d) what is the average number of cultivators growing cotton, land covered under cotton cultivation and percentage of land covered under cotton cultivation out of total cultivated land of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The total production of cotton during 1986-87 and 1987-88 is estimated at 69.1 and 64.3 lakh bales of 170 kg. each, respectively. The production is expected to be in the range of 90.0 to 95.0 lakh bales during 1988-89.

(b) The current international prices of cotton are higher than the domestic price in respect of most of the varieties. Government has already released a quantity of 51,241 bales of Bengal Deshi cotton for export during the current year.